

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

Remembrance Sunday

Parish and town councils across Northamptonshire organise parades, services, and commemorations for Remembrance Sunday, which this year is Sunday 9 November 2025. At a meeting of the Northamptonshire Civic Committee on Wednesday the Lord Lieutenant, James Saunders Watson, reminded everyone that he is delighted to receive invitations to civic events throughout the year, and he is particularly keen that the Lieutenancy is represented at Remembrance Services. The Lord Lieutenant has appointed over thirty Deputy Lieutenants (DLs) and assigned them to geographical areas, so if he is already committed then it might be possible to send a DL in his stead. If you would like a representative from the Lieutenancy at your event please email Lord-Lieutenant@westnorthants.gov.uk for a copy of the Lieutenancy Engagement Request Form.

HRH The Duchess of Kent

The Funeral of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent will take place at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday, 16 September at 1400. Ahead of the Funeral, The Duchess of Kent's coffin is at rest in the private chapel at Kensington Palace. Members of the public wishing to pay their condolences to The Duchess of Kent's family can now do so online: <https://royal.uk/condolences-duchess-kent>.

Great Fire of Northampton – 350th Anniversary Events

Are you going? Northampton marks 350 years since the Great Fire with **a week of free activities**, culminating in a Market Square celebration on **Saturday 20 September 2025** (1100 - 1930). Highlights include:

- Makers Market, live music, and performances
- Premiere of a community animation at 1330
- Light shows at All Saints' Church (15–20 September)
- Special service at All Saints' (1930, 20 September 2025) with Rev Richard Coles and local dignitaries
- Other events: heritage walks, exhibitions, and a concert of Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks.

Download the **full press release for the programme and all the details** at <https://tinyurl.com/pv5k9z39>. It promises to be one of the biggest and liveliest celebrations of Northamptonshire history ever.

Displays on Lampposts

Parish and town councils that own or directly control streetlighting columns or other street furniture from which flags and other displays could be fixed may wish to check

their relevant policies. Where a parish or town council owns a streetlighting column it has the right – and the legal responsibility - to manage what is attached to it. It also means the council is liable for any incidents that might arise from something being improperly affixed to its property. Streetlighting columns must be maintained to ensure they are structurally sound and safe and unauthorised attachments can put stress on the columns, interfere with maintenance, or create an electrical hazard. A clear policy on what can be attached to the columns is a fundamental part of the council's health and safety duties. You're looking for a paragraph in a policy or risk assessment that says something like "The display of flags, banners, or any other items on parish-owned lampposts is prohibited without the express written permission of the parish council." Any new policies developed should be fair, balanced, and politically neutral. A parish or town council's jurisdiction is limited to property that it owns or directly controls. It does not extend to streetlighting columns or other street furniture owned or directly controlled by the Highways Authority, and certainly not to flags and other displays on private property.

SOS, Not SOS

Following the departure last week of Angela Rayner, there is a new Secretary of State at The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, previously Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, was appointed on Friday. Also, Jim McMahon MP, who was Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution has been dismissed, and it is not clear who his replacement is or even whether his role will be directly replaced. Jim McMahon was driving Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across England as well as the creation of so-called "Strategic Authorities", so it will be interesting to see what now happens to that initiative.

Local Council Vacancies

Stoke Bruerne is a small, picturesque village on the Grand Union Canal. **Stoke Bruerne Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 7 hours per week starting in November. The council has 7 seats and set a precept for 2025/26 of £22,000. The deadline for applications is **19 September 2025**.

Owing to the forthcoming retirement of long-serving clerk **Gary Denby**, the following three vacancies are now advertised:

Moreton Pinkney Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 3.5 hours per week. Moreton Pinkney is a small village with 341 electors and is in rural South Northamptonshire, between Canons Ashby (National Trust) and Sulgrave, on the old 'Banbury Lane' between Banbury and Northampton. Administration responsibilities include village street lighting and mowing contractors. The council has 7 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £13,250. The deadline for applications is **29 September 2025**.

Preston Capes Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 3.5 hours per week. Preston Capes is a small village with 170 electors and is in rural South Northamptonshire, between Canons Ashby (National Trust) and Sulgrave, on the old 'Banbury Lane' between Banbury and Northampton. Administration responsibilities include the village mowing contractors. The council has 7 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £8,600. The deadline for applications is **29 September 2025**.

Culworth Parish Council has a vacancy or a Clerk/RFO working 7.5 hours per week. Culworth is a small village with 322 electors and is in rural South Northamptonshire, close to Sulgrave Manor with its George Washington (USA) connections, on the old 'Banbury Lane' between Banbury and Northampton. Administration responsibilities include village street lighting, mowing contractors, the village cricket field and a burial ground; assisting with the replacement of the village hall. The council has 7 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £38,000. The deadline for applications is **29 September 2025**.

Details of all vacancies are at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.